

We claim:

1. A mechanism for picking up sod pieces and comprising a plurality of piercing members having pointed tips, a mounting mechanism for mounting said piercing members above said sod pieces, an actuating mechanism to actuate said piercing members for said tips to pierce said sod pieces and to support said sod pieces, and a moving mechanism for moving said sod pick-up device to a location for releasing said sod pieces onto a support.
2. Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said piercing members are hooks.
3. Apparatus according to claim 2 and including a screen below said hooks, said screen having openings therein and said tips of said hooks being sized to penetrate through said spaces for said hooks to pin said sod pieces to said screen, and for said screen to resist movement of said sod pieces while said hooks are being withdrawn from said sod pieces through said screen.
4. Apparatus according to claim 2 wherein said sod pieces are slabs.
5. Apparatus according to claim 4 wherein said slabs are folded.
6. Apparatus according to claim 2 wherein said sod pieces are rolls.
7. Apparatus according to claim 6 wherein said rolls are positioned end-to-end to form a line of rolls.
8. Apparatus according to claim 7 and including a plurality of said lines of rolls positioned side-by-side.
9. Apparatus according to claim 6 and having one hook per roll.
10. Apparatus according to claim 6 and including at least two hooks per roll.

11. Apparatus according to claim 10 wherein said actuating mechanism moves said two hooks of each roll in opposite directions so that said hooks close in a pincers movement.
12. Apparatus according to claim 2 wherein a plurality of said hooks are mounted on a shaft, and said actuating means is adapted to rotate said shaft.
13. Apparatus according to claim 2 wherein said hooks are sized to penetrate through said sod pieces and to project therebelow, said apparatus including a conveyor to support said sod pieces, said conveyor having an upper surface having grooves therein to accommodate said hooks.
14. A sod pick-up mechanism for a sod roll, each sod roll having side surfaces and ends, said mechanism comprising at least one clamp device including a pair of arms engageable with opposite side surfaces or ends of a roll to clamp said roll, and a motive device carrying said clamp device for moving said clamp device to a location for releasing said sod roll onto a support.
15. Apparatus according to claim 14 and including an upper sod locking member, said arms being located to press against said ends of one or more sod rolls for holding said one or more said sod rolls against said upper sod blocking member.
16. Apparatus according to claim 14 and including a plurality of said pairs of side arms for picking up a plurality of said sod rolls.
17. Apparatus according to claim 16 wherein each sod roll has an axis, said arms being located to pick up an axial line of said sod roll.
18. Apparatus according to claim 14 and adapted to pick up a line of sod rolls having their respective side surfaces abutting, said apparatus including a plurality of said pairs of side arms, said side arms having cushioned gripping portions to accommodate irregularities in the length of said sod rolls.

19. Apparatus according to claim 14 wherein one of said side arms is substantially straight and is a friction side arm, and the other said side arm has a projection thereon for gripping an end of said sod roll.

20. Apparatus according to claim 14 wherein said side arms each have a plate member thereon for gripping a side of said sod roll.

21. Apparatus according to claim 20 wherein said plate members of said side arms are positioned to grip said sod roll at diametrically opposite positions on said sod roll.

22. Apparatus according to claim 20 wherein one of said plate members is positioned to grip a side of said sod roll at substantially the center of the vertical height of the said sod roll, and the other plate member is positioned to grip said sod roll at a position adjacent the upper surface of said sod roll, whereby to facilitate gripping said sod roll when said sod roll is positioned in abutment against another sod roll.

23. A sod pick-up mechanism for a set of sod rolls, said set having side surfaces and end surfaces, said mechanism comprising at least one clamp device including a pair of arms engageable with opposite said side surfaces or said end surfaces of said set, and a motive device carrying said clamp device for moving said clamp device to a location for releasing said set of sod rolls onto a support.

24. Apparatus according to claim 23 wherein said pair of arms includes pressure plates engageable with said opposite side surfaces of said set, said mechanism including a further clamp device having a second pair of arms engageable with said opposite end surfaces of said set, so that both said side surfaces and said end surfaces are gripped by said clamp devices.